

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A system for use in presenting at least one record of information, including a plurality of fields of data, as a textual document that can be displayed and edited, said system comprising:

a data display device;

at least one data entry device;

an information store containing at least one data record;

and

a data handler, coupled to said information store and to said data display device, for accessing said data base and for retrieving at least a portion of said at least one data record, said data handler for creating a document metaphor containing said at least a portion of said at least one retrieved data record for display on said data display device, said document metaphor allowing sequential viewing, on said data display device, of at least a portion of said retrieved data record as a text document.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said document metaphor is viewable in its entirety by sequentially scrolling downward and upward through said document metaphor.

3. The system of claim 1 ,wherein said document metaphor includes a plurality of data record elements.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein said document metaphor includes a data entry view mode and a data display view mode.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the view mode of a selected data record may be toggled between said data entry view mode and said data display view mode by signaling on said data record element by said at least one data entry device.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said at least one data entry device includes a mouse, and wherein said signaling includes double-clicking on said selected data record element.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said data base includes at least one record selected from at least one of the group of information stores consisting of an e-mail record data base, a calendar record data base; a report record data base; and a user defined record data base.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said document metaphor includes at least one section, said at least one section including a plurality of data record elements.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein a users view of said at least one document metaphor section on said display device may be expanded and contracted.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein said document handler is responsive to a data record request input by a user on said at least one data entry device.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein said document metaphor includes a static header portion and a static footer portion.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein said document metaphor further includes at least one of a navigation bar and a command bar.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said command bar includes a plurality of hyperlinks, each of said plurality of hyperlinks providing a direct access to a pre-determined section of said document metaphor.

14. The system of claim 7 wherein said document metaphor allows a user to move from one record of a first information store to another record.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said one record in said first information store includes a hyperlink to said another record.

16. The system of claim 1 wherein said document metaphor is displayed as a web page.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said document metaphor is displayed in HTML code.

18. The system of claim 1 wherein said document metaphor further includes at least one expandable text containing field which expands in size as more text is provided to be displayed in said field.

19. A computer program, residing in a storage medium, for use in presenting at least one record of information including a plurality of field of data as a textual document which can be displayed and edited, the program comprising executable instructions which enable a computer system to:

allow a user to select a record from an information store to be viewed;

retrieve at least a portion of the selected record;

present, on a data display device, at least a portion of the retrieved record as a document metaphor allowing sequentially viewing of the displayed portion of the record; and

allowing the user to switch the view of the document metaphor between a data entry view mode and a data display view mode.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein said document metaphor includes a data entry view mode and a data display view mode.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the view mode of a selected data record maybe toggled between said data entry view mode and said data display view mode by signaling on said data record element by said at least one data entry device.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said at least one data entry device includes a mouse, and wherein said signaling includes double-clicking on said selected data record element.

23. The system of claim 19 wherein said data base includes at least one record selected from at least one of the group of information stores consisting of an e-mail record information store, a calendar record information store; a report record information store; and a user defined record information store.

24. The system of claim 19 wherein said document metaphor includes at least one section, said at least one section including a plurality of data record elements.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein a users view of said at least one document metaphor section on said display device may be expanded and contracted.

26. The system of claim 19 wherein said document handler is responsive to a data record request input by a user on said at least one data entry device.

27. The system of claim 19 wherein said document metaphor includes a static header portion and a static footer portion.

28. The system of claim 19 wherein said document metaphor further includes at least one of a navigation bar and a command bar.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein said command bar includes a plurality of hyperlinks, each of said plurality of hyperlinks providing a direct access to a pre-determined section of said document metaphor.

30. The system of claim 23 wherein said document metaphor allows a user to move from one record of a first information store to another record.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein said one record in said first information store includes a hyperlink to said another record.

32. The system of claim 19 wherein said document metaphor is displayed as a web page.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein said document metaphor is displayed in HTML code.

34. The system of claim 19, wherein said document metaphor further includes at least one expandable text containing field which expands in size as more text is provided to be displayed in said field.

35. A method for presenting at least one record of information including a plurality of fields of data as a textual document which can be displayed and edited, said method comprising the acts of:

providing a data handler, responsive, in use, to at least one information store containing at least one data record;

responsive, in use, to a user request for access to at least a portion of at least one record, accessing said information store and retrieving at least a portion of said at least one data record; and

responsive to said accessing and retrieving, creating a document metaphor allowing new viewing of at least a portion of said retrieved data record on said data display device as a textual document.